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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC No. 01498-85
20 March 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM: George Kolt
National Intelligence Officer for Europe

SUBJECT: Balkan Regional Conference

1. I am proposing that the NIC fund -- and co-sponsor with EURA -- a conference on Balkan regional problems. The scheduled date would be 12-13 June. (We have tentatively reserved space in Headquarters for that period.)

2. We intend the conference to feature panel discussions by about a dozen non-government experts for the benefit of Community analysts who work on the Balkans. We prefer a panel mix of academics with demonstrated interest in current trends and some senior ex-policymakers with experience in the area (see attachment A). We intend the discussions to focus as much as possible on US security interests in the region. We plan to invite Ambassador Eagleburger to launch the project with a speech at a pre conference dinner on 11 June.

3. You may wonder, why a conference on Balkan regional problems? The DDI already has sponsored separate conferences [redacted]

[redacted]
These seminars offered considerable new insights but all tended to ignore regional problems and interdependencies. None has comprehensively addressed regional rivalries, developing forms of regional economic cooperation or common security issues like the "Balkan Nuclear Free Zone". We also want to flag potentially serious developments in several less known countries -- among other topics, we have scheduled one session on post-Hoxha Albania. (See attachment B). In sum, our main goal is to help broaden perspectives for Community analysts who tend to have an information base predominantly shaped by day to day concerns.

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4. We intend the conference to be small in size and classified at the confidential level for several reasons. The first is that State Department does not want an officially sponsored meeting to cause speculation at the expense of some delicate US policy interests in the region. We also believe that a classified meeting will provide more range for the speakers and encourage their candor.

5. The exact cost of the conference is difficult to forecast until we know how many outsiders will attend and what their travel costs will be. Judging by our past experience with conferences, \$20,000 should provide adequate funding.

6. I have worked closely with [] in roughing out the conference idea. In addition, EURA's WE and EE divisions and the NIC/AG have provided extensive suggestions and good advice in polishing the draft agenda. If you approve the project, we will continue to share the work load in administrative and all other arrangements for the meeting.

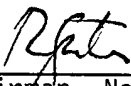
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George Kolt

Attachments
a/s

APPROVED:



Chairman, National Intelligence Council

20 MAR 1985

Date

DISAPPROVED:

Chairman, National Intelligence Council

Date

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SUGGESTED AGENDA FOR BALKANS CONFERENCE

1. Dinner Session, Keynote Address and Conference Theme: "The Strategic Importance of the Balkans for US Interests"
Suggested speaker: L.Eagleburger,

2. Day 1. June 12.

ELEMENTS OF INSTABILITY 9:00 am

0915-1030 Traditional Destabilizing Forces

One presenter to review the entire picture of ethnic problems and irredentist movements. Followed by discussion.

Suggested speaker:

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1030-1045 BREAK

1045-1200 New Destabilizing Developments

Albanian leadership transition

Suggested speakers: Biberaj,

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1200-1330 LUNCH

1330-1500 Other States in Transition

Jugoslavia--the decline of federalism

Suggested speakers:

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Turkey's post-martial law experience

Suggested speaker:

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What's ahead for Greece?

Suggested speaker:

25X1

1500-1515 BREAK

1515-1700 KEY FORCES FOR STABILITY AND INSTABILITY--Overview

Generational change

Role of the military

Economic decline

Suggested speaker:

25X1

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3. Day 2. June 13.

CROSS-BLOC DEVELOPMENTS: DIVERGENCES FROM EAST/WEST PATTERNS?

0900-1030 Bilateral Cross-Bloc Relations
Balkan Regional Cooperation

Suggested speaker:

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1030-1045 BREAK

1100-1230 WRAP-UP--CATALYSTS FOR CRISIS: IMPLICATIONS FOR US

Strategic concerns (Middle East, NATO's Southern Flank,
Trends in Bloc Relations, Evolution)

Suggested speaker:

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Implications for short and long-term interests of
US, USSR.

Suggested speaker:

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET**SUBJECT:** (Optional)

Balkan Regional Conference

FROM:George Kolt
NIO for Europe**EXTENSION****NO.**

NIC No. 01498-85

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DATE

20 March 1985

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)**DATE****RECEIVED****FORWARDED****OFFICER'S
INITIALS****COMMENTS** (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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DDI Req.

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